



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
2181 Rayburn House Office Building ■ (202) 225-4527

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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Secretary Paige Touts President's Education Reform Blueprint

Education Secretary Rod Paige yesterday hailed President Bush's education reform plan *No Child Left Behind*, stressing the importance of flexibility and accountability in helping children realize their academic potential.

Testifying before the House Budget Committee, Paige said, "Our system of elementary and secondary education is failing to do its job for far too many of our children -- a failure that threatens the future of our nation, and a failure that the American people will no longer tolerate."

He continued: "It is just as clear that federal education policy is not accomplishing its goals, despite the investment of more than \$130 billion and the creation of hundreds of categorical programs over the past three decades. More often than not, in fact, it is precisely this bewildering array of federal programs, regulations, and paperwork that gets in the way of promising reforms at the state and local levels."

The President's proposal would, for the first time, demand real results from public schools that receive federal education resources. His message is clear: Public schools must educate our children, and we will hold them accountable for how well they perform that job -- not just for how quickly they spend taxpayer money.

Message of the Day

President Bush has proposed an increase in federal education funding, but flexibility and accountability are the key components of his *No Child Left Behind* reform plan.

- *Until we have a system of real accountability in place to ensure that public schools using federal education dollars are teaching our children, it is not wise to pursue massive increases in federal education spending.*
- *This is the approach Washington has followed in the past -- and as a tragic consequence, many children have been trapped in chronically failing schools.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- President Bush increases funding for the Department of Education to \$44.5 billion for FY 2002, an increase of \$2.5 billion or 5.9 percent more than last year.
- The President increases funding for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) -- the principal federal law to aid disadvantaged students -- by \$1.6 billion.
- The budget proposal increases aid to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) by 6.4 percent more than in FY 2001.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is time to stop funding failure and promoting a culture of compliance and start building a culture of achievement and accountability in our education system." Secretary of Education Rod Paige, March 13, 2001, testimony before the House Budget Committee